

Indian Child Welfare Services: Problems, Promising Practices, and Recommendations

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Tribal IV-E Plans

- 574 recognized tribes in the US
- Only 11 have achieved IV-E program approval
- *No tribes have approved IV-E plans in Region 2*
- Tribes lose opportunities due to lack of technical expertise and personnel, which becomes a spiral of lost opportunities
- ***WE MUST PROVIDE TRUE OPPORTUNITIES TO TRIBES TO CLAIM FUNDING BY OFFERING TA AND SIMPLIFYING APPLICATION PROCESS***

Gaps in Culturally Relevant Family First Services

- Short list of approved programs
- Need for culturally relevant programs
- Approximately 30% of enrolled Native people live on reservations
- Urban Indians and those off-reservation deserve culturally relevant services



Region 2 Service Area:

NY's 8 federally recognized tribes and
NJ's 3 federally recognized tribes

American Indian tribes of New Jersey



Data Gaps and ICWA Implementation Challenges

- States lack informative data about Native American children in their regions
- ICWA-responsive services not institutionalized
- Promising practices often rely on committed individuals
- *WE MUST INSTITUTIONALIZE COURT AND CHILD WELFARE ICW ROLES AND SUPPORT STATE DATA COLLECTION RELATED TO NATIVE CHILDREN*

Strengthening the Court Improvement Program

- Court Improvement Program has supported ICWA
- Tribal Court Improvement Programs allow for innovative culturally-specific programming in family tribal courts
- *AN INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL ICWA-SPECIFIC CIP FUNDING COULD SUPPORT NATIONAL COURT IMPROVEMENTS FOR ICW*

Promising Practices - NCWWI and ICW Partnership Grants

- Children's Bureau National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI)
 - Erie Co, NY leadership initiatives
- Children's Bureau ICW Partnership Grants
 - ICWA Family Preservationists, formalizing ICWA In legislation
- CIP and TCIP programs

- *WE MUST CONTINUE TO FUND THESE GRANTS TO DEVELOP ICW INNOVATIONS AND REDUCE DISPARITIES*
- *WE NEED TO BETTER SYSTEMATICALLY DISSEMINATE FINDINGS OF THESE INNOVATIONS*